

Message Text

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51

ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 TRSE-00 EB-11 AID-20 L-03 EUR-25

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DRAFTED BY:TREAS:TM BARR/BIC/OIFI:RLLURENSKY

APPROVED BY:EB/OCA/REP:LAKLIEFORTH

TREAS:JDLANGE

U S IBRD:HFREYNOLDS (SUBS)

COMM:RW SHAW

EB/IFD/ODF:TSCHAFER (SUBS)

COMM:RRYDLUM

AF/E:HKWALKER

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R 301440Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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FROM COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, XA

SUBJECT: ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST U.S. FIRMS BIDDING
ON IDA-FINANCED EDUCATION PROJECT

REF: MONROVIA 3054

1. OFFICE OF U.S. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WORLD BANK PROBED
POSSIBILITY OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST U.S. ARCHITECTURAL
AND ENGINEERING FIRMS CITED REFTEL.

2. FACTS REPORTED REFTEL GENERALLY ACCURATE. ORIGINAL
LIST COMPRISED OF THREE FIRMS (INCLUDING ASSOCIATION OF STANLEY/
MILTON AND RICHARDS, WHICH HAD BEEN TENTATIVELY SELECTED)
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WAS REJECTED BECAUSE OF FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH NORMAL CONSULTATN

SELECTION PROCEDURES. STANLEY/MILTON AND RICHARDS ASSOCIATION WAS JUDGED UNACCEPTABLE, GIVEN RICHARDS CONNECTION WITH PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY.

3. BANK REQUIRED RECOMMENCEMENT OF CONSULTANT SELECTION PROCESS, AND CONFINED ITS ROLE TO APPROVAL GENERAL CRITERIA TO BE UTILIZED IN DETERMINING FINAL SHORTLIST. MAJOR CRITERION WAS EXPERIENCE WITH DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF EDUCATION FACILITIES IN TROPICAL CLIMATES. BANK DID NOT SUGGEST INDIVIDUAL FIRMS TO LIBERIANS, NOR DID IT INSIST ON ANY GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD IN FIRMS REPRESENTED.

4. U.S. WORLD BANK OFFICIALS SATISFIED THAT SELECTION OF FIRMS, INCLUDING FINAL CHOICE, WAS MADE WITHOUT BANK PRESSURE OR INTERFERENCE. NOW APPEARS THAT DANISH FIRM WILL RECEIVE AWARD, LARGELY ON BASIS OF PRIOR EXPERIENCE. FURTHER SATISFIED THAT NEITHER THIS FIRM NO DANISH GOVERNMENT EXERTED PRESSURE ON BANK.

5. APPRECIATE VERY MUCH YOUR INITIATIVE IN REPORTING POSSIBILITY OF ANTI-U.S. DISCRIMINATION IN THIS CASE, AND WILL WELCOME FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS ON PROBLEMS OR QUESTIONS REGARDING WORLD BANK AWARDS. ROGERS

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Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TREAS:TM BARR/BIC/OIFI:RLLURENSKY
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